



Engineering Hawai'i's Future

November 2015

Capitol Connection with Gov. David Ige is a regular e-newsletter that provides you with updates from the fifth floor of the State Capitol. As the Governor's Office works to become paperless, the newsletter will be available on-line and via subscription. Check out the Governor's website at governor.hawaii.gov to subscribe to this newsletter. Also, check the Facebook postings at www.facebook.com/GovernorIge for daily activities.

From the Governor: The View from Here

Q. In your Strategic Priorities, you say your vision is to have a "state government that is honest, transparent and responsive to its citizens." What does that mean for the average person?

It means making decisions based on merit. It means working with communities and having an open process. In total, we've had 33 news conferences, including the first in a series of community forums. We are working on public access through these forums and technology. We're focused on making things work for the long-term, not quick fixes and big pronouncements.

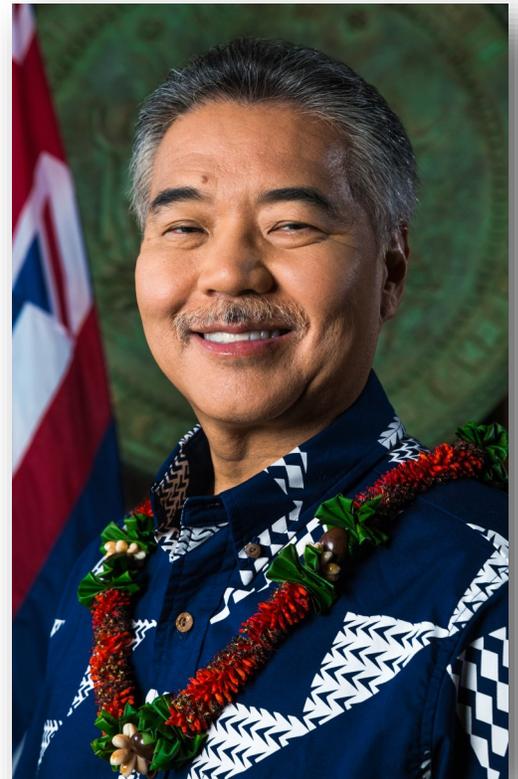
Q. What early successes can you point to so far?

A. We have an improved bond outlook for the state, which means more money for projects like roadways and schools. We're also being good stewards of our environment in areas such as Turtle Bay. We're making good use of federal dollars for highways by completing more projects.

Q. What is your long-term vision for the State?

A. I want to establish Hawai'i as a place future generations will want to call home with meaningful job opportunities. We need them to become contributors to our communities because their heart is here.

David Y. Ige
Governor David Y. Ige



Community forum at Windward Community College



It was a packed house at Windward Community College for the governor's first "Community Connection."

Governor Ige and members of his cabinet held the first in a series of community forums called "Community Connection" at Windward Community College on Oct. 26, 2015. The event drew a large, appreciative crowd that asked a wide range of questions on topics that included TMT, education, traffic and homelessness.

"I think it's important for the governor and his administration to reach out to the community to understand the issues that are most important to us," said Kāne'ohē resident Kathy Olivera.

The Community Connection series continues with forums being scheduled across the state. To watch the Oct. 26 event, click: <http://bit.ly/1RzSHI5>



Next steps for helping homeless people

Armed with an emergency proclamation, Gov. Ige and his Leadership Team on Homelessness are embarking on a series of new initiatives to help individuals and families statewide.

Specifically, the emergency proclamation allows the spending of more than \$1.3 million to construct a temporary shelter for homeless families on O‘ahu, extend homeless services, and increase funding statewide for programs that promote immediate housing.

It also expands the state’s Housing First program to the Neighbor Islands. State, city, and federal governments as well as service providers have worked together since August to place 158 individuals and 25 families from the Kaka‘ako encampment into shelters.

In addition to Kaka‘ako, the Governor’s team plans to extend efforts to help the homeless in Waianae, Waipahu and Waimanalo.

“The lesson learned is that great things can be accomplished when we all work together,” said Gov. Ige. “We plan to replicate the Kaka‘ako model as we work to address homelessness in communities across the state.”

NEWS UPDATES

Mrs. Ige and Gov. Ige pay a courtesy call on Governor Zhu Xiaodan and Provincial Staff of Tourism and Education Affairs, Guangdong Provincial Government.

On a Mission: Governor and First Lady Strengthen Hawai‘i’s Asia Connection

Hawai‘i’s pivotal role in the Pacific was the focus of a business and diplomatic mission to Japan and China last month by Gov. Ige and First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige. The trip celebrated a 30-year sister state relationship with Okinawa and Guangdong Province and included a delegation from the Department of Business and Economic Development and Tourism. It sought to expand trade and tourism opportunities, renewable energy partnerships, and international student exchange.

“It’s clear that Hawai‘i has a different status in Asia from the other 49 states,” Gov. Ige emphasized. “Hawai‘i is viewed as a gateway to strengthen the Japan-U.S. relationship as well as the U.S.-China relationship.”

The trip focused on ways the sister-states could collaborate on a wide range of mutual interests. The governor wants to increase visitors and business travelers coming to the islands from southern China through direct flights and a targeted marketing campaign. “Hawai‘i currently attracts about 1.5 million visitors from Japan yearly but only about 160,000 from China,” Gov. Ige noted.

He also visited Okinawa Electric Power Company and J-Power to discuss collaboration in the future on renewable energy initiatives.

As for student exchanges, both Gov. Ige and the First Lady said these not only foster global understanding but also have a positive economic impact by bringing new dollars to the state.



Keli‘i Yamashita of Leolani Ukulele shares a few stories with Gov. Ige. The company is a local small business looking to create its own production warehouse here in Hawai‘i. The SBA and STEP program have been there to help them along the way.

Hawai‘i awarded SBA grant to boost exports from small businesses

DBEDT announced the state has received \$750,000 — the largest awarded to any state besides Michigan — to help small businesses succeed in the international marketplace.

The grant is part of the State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) initiative to increase the number of U.S. small businesses that provide products for export.

“I can assure you, there is much interest in Hawai‘i products in Japan and China,” said Gov. Ige. “We look forward to helping our small businesses be part of the global economy.”

The funds will be used to support participation in tradeshows and other activities targeting agricultural and food products, gift and souvenir products, fashion and sporting goods, and energy and environmental services.



In the Spotlight Thomas Lee

Thomas Kahalu Lee, Jr., governor's new Military Affairs Liaison

Thomas Kahalu Lee, Jr. knows what it means to be a "Wounded Warrior." He lost his right leg above the knee in Iraq but not his commitment to return to serve his island home.

Lee, 40, is the governor's new military affairs liaison, a post created by the Legislature last session to assist with community relations involving the military and state government. His job can include everything from dealing with quarantine issues for the pets of military families to understanding community concerns about fuel leaks at Red Hill and working to prevent them in the future.

"We're honored to have Tom filling this first-ever position for Hawai'i," said Gov. Ige. "He's a daily reminder in our office of how much he and others have sacrificed so we can have the freedoms we enjoy."

"I want to tell vets and anyone facing life as an amputee...you can overcome anything," says Lee.

Lee's own inspiring story is one of bravery and perseverance, even though he would be too modest to call it that. A 1993 Moanalua High School graduate, he served with the Army in both Afghanistan and Iraq. However, his deployment in 2007 near Baghdad nearly cost him his life.

"It was 8 in the morning when we came under small arms fire," he recalled. "Children were walking on the road on their way to school. After we shielded them so they could hide in a nearby building, an IED was detonated under our vehicle." Lee received a Purple Heart based on the severe injuries he suffered, including a severed brachial artery and amputation of his right leg above the knee.

Does Lee worry about his fellow vets who have challenges with PTSD and other issues? "Yes, I've lost more friends to suicide than I lost in combat," he replied quietly. "But I want to tell vets and anyone facing life as an amputee — have a sense of purpose and take advantage of the services out there. You can overcome anything."

Historic agreement: Preserving land in perpetuity at Turtle Bay

Land conservation history has been made as Turtle Bay Resort and a collaboration of entities led by the State of Hawai'i completed an agreement to preserve in perpetuity nearly 630 acres of open space along O'ahu's North Shore.

"This marks the formal beginning of a partnership that will forever preserve this precious stretch of land for generations to come," said Gov. Ige.

The property protected by this agreement covers more than four miles from Kahuku Point to Kawela Bay and represents nearly 4 percent of O'ahu's coastline.

Gov. Ige signed into law Senate Bill 284 on June 12, 2015, following the initiative of the Legislature. The details of the agreement were approved by the State Board of Land and Natural Resources on Sept. 25, 2015.

The agreement between Turtle Bay Resort, the State of Hawai'i, the City and County of Honolulu, U.S. Army and The Trust for Public Land is supported by a host of community groups and stakeholders, including the North Shore Community Land Trust.

At Washington Place

Hawai'i 2016 Teacher of the Year



Third grade teacher Stephanie Mew was thrilled to find out that she was selected as Hawai'i's 2016 Teacher of the Year.

Stephanie Mew, a third-grade teacher at Kapunahala Elementary in Kāne'ohe, will represent Hawai'i in the national competition in April.

Mew is credited with motivating her students — more than 90 percent of whom meet or exceed proficiency targets in

math and reading. She says her favorite thing is "asking my students what they want to learn and supporting them to achieve (their goals)."

The other finalists honored as district winners are David Paul Braun Jr., Waimea Canyon Middle School, Kaua'i; Alicia Chang, King Liholiho Elementary, Honolulu; Kathy Lin, Highlands Intermediate, Leeward O'ahu; Joy Takatsuka, King Kamehameha III Elementary, Maui; Darryl Yagi, E.B. de Silva Elementary, Hawaii; and Lynn Yoshioka, Mililani Middle, Central.

People in the News

State Employees of the Year

Gov. Ige recognized winners of the Governor's Awards, which honor State executive branch employees, managers and teams who exemplify the highest caliber of public service and dedication to the people of Hawai'i. The program is administered by the Department of Human Resources Development.

The winners were selected from 50 exceptional groups and individual nominees. They included 17 team nominees, 14 manager nominees and 19 employee nominees.

- **State Manager of the Year: Daniel Hanagami**, Chief Special Investigator, Department of the Attorney General. Chief Hanagami restores faith in government with his unshakable dedication to eradicating corruption and a clearly focused vision for his division to conduct fair and impartial investigations of the highest professional caliber.



- **Employee of the Year: Steve Keahi**, Airport Firefighter, Department of Transportation. Keahi has gone above and beyond the call of duty to make the Kahului Airport Rescue & Fire Fighting unit one of the best in the nation. Using his resourcefulness, he designed and built simulated training aids for the firefighters, helping them to protect the traveling public.



- **State Team of the Year: HIV Data to Care Team**, Department of Health. This team of 13 individuals adopted an innovative peer-based leadership method to treating patients with the HIV virus. The Data to Care approach reduces the serious medical consequences of untreated HIV/AIDS and reduces new HIV infections, which will save millions of dollars in public and private medical costs annually.



Progress across the State

Closing the digital divide in our schools

Maui schools Kalama Intermediate School and Lokelani Intermediate School have become the first in the state to receive free digital tablets for every student through the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program directed by the nonprofit Digital Promise.

Gov. Ige commended the Maui schools' selection for the coveted program and Verizon's willingness to challenge students and teachers. "Each and every teacher is taking a risk to have students armed with these devices," Gov. Ige said. "Anytime a teacher asks a question, some student is going to be in the back trying to find the answer before the teacher. That is the digital world we live in today."



Gov. Ige with representatives from Digital Promise, Verizon, Kalama and Lokelani Intermediate, (L to R) Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui, Verizon rep Joyce Masamitsu, State Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Deputy Superintendent Stephen Schatz, Kalama Principal John Costales, Lokelani Principal Donna Whitford, Gov. Ige, Digital Promise rep Jim Beeler, Verizon rep Ian Yahya and Kalama students.

In our Neighborhoods

H-1 freeway is expanding

The H-1 improvements project, which adds a new afternoon shoulder lane from Halawa Interchange through Waimalu offramp and a new lane from Waimalu onramp to Waikele westbound, is now completed and open for motorists. The two and a half miles of new roadway will accommodate more than 2,000 cars per hour easing congestion through the state's busiest corridor.

The shoulder lane will be open for travel during the evening commute from 3:30 to 6 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

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